

ICE FISHING AT GEORGE WYTH STATE PARK

Some people hold back from enjoying a complete outdoor experience because they're weary about *completely* immersing themselves in nature. If you're one of those people, you don't have to be concerned about it here at George Wyth State Park. This park is one of the few very metropolitan parks in the state and located right in the midst of the Cedar Falls and Waterloo area, so you're just minutes away from everything while still enjoying the nature experience.

The park has many perks, such as 69 camping units, three shelters, a lodge, 5.5 miles of paved multi-purpose trails, connections to several larger paved bike trails, boat ramps. The large woodland expanse here makes it a great place for bird watching and other species viewing, so it has therefore been designated as a National Urban Wildlife Sanctuary. Wildlife viewing is an educational and cost-free activity, and is even great to do in the winter!



The most prominent winter activity I noticed during my visit to the park was ice fishing. I arrived at around noon on a weekday in January and encountered several large groups of ice fishers. This makes sense since the park has five water areas, Brinker Lake, George Wyth Lake, Fisher Lake, Alice Wyth Lake, and the Cedar River.





Whether you're an experienced ice fisher or have never gone, George Wyth State Park is a great place to enjoy this outdoor sport. If you're a beginner be sure you start by going with someone who's knowledgeable about it. The first most important thing you need is safe ice. Anything less than 3 inches thick is a definite no, as you should aim for ice 6 inches or thicker to avoid cracking or shifting. If any water seeps up through cracks in the ice, run for the shore immediately! Keep in mind that different species of fish will be caught at different depths in the water. If you're not out to get any specific species, you can fish with smaller lure and baits such as worms, grubs or maggots.



The interstate running right through the park